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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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62-95834-19

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy
2 Avenue Gabriel
Paris 8, France

CLASS BY SP-1 (62) PSL

DATE OF REVIEW

DATE

~~SECRET~~ - AIR COURIER

Date: January 7, 1953
To: Director, FBI (62-95834)
From: Legat, Paris (105-245)
Subject: JOSEPHINE BAKER BOUILLON
INTERNAL SECURITY - FR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

G.I.R.-8

MRS. JO BOUILLON

ReBulet 11/21/52.

Attached hereto are seven copies of a blind memorandum which the Bureau may desire to disseminate to the Department of Justice, Department of State and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. No dissemination has been made at Paris.

This memorandum represents all data on the subject now available to this office, including that contained in Paris cable to the Bureau dated 11/2/51 entitled "JOSEPHINE BAKER; SPECIAL INQUIRY."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Enclosure - 1

RECORDED 13

JAN 21 1953

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11 DEC 71 INDEXED - 13

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

CC TO: OSI 4/24/56
REQ. REC'D 11-17
NOV 13 1962
BY: Shojan

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

62-95834-20

RECORDED-52

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date: January 30, 1953

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 CS/PSK
ON 9/2/82

To: Mr. John W. Ford
Chief, Division of Security
U. S. Department of State
515 22nd Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

EX-123

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOSEPHINE MAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - FR

Attached for the information of each of the agencies receiving this memorandum is a communication, dated January 7, 1953, which contains information concerning the captioned individual, a French citizen by marriage.

These data are being furnished for your confidential use with the request that they not be further disseminated. No investigation will be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the absence of a specific request.

Attachment

b2

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

(Attachment)

cc - 1 - The Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service

(Attachment)
(T-2321267 INV:FRH)

BY SPL. MSGR.

66 FEB - 3

COMM - FBI

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

63 MAR 4 1953

cc: jdb

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95

SECRET

62-95834

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Date: February 18, 1953
To: Mr. John W. Ford
Chief, Division of Security
U. S. Department of State
535 22nd Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

CLASS. BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

DATE OF REVIEW

9/2/82

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Reference is made to our memorandum of January 30,
1953, [REDACTED] (S) b1

Attached is a copy of a memorandum dated November 14,
1952, containing information from our files concerning the
captioned individual.

These data are being furnished for your confidential
use with the request that they not be further disseminated.

Enclosure
1 ct

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER
(Enclosure)

FEB 19 1953
137

Note: The attached memo for Stat [REDACTED] is a copy of a memo furnished
the Department in November, 1952, reflecting the results of a
file review.

SNIF
21
11-12/1/64"

BY SPL MSGR.

89 FEB 18

COMM - FBI

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

63 MAR 4 1953

APR 1
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~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

62-95834

~~SECRET~~ AIR COURIER

Date: March 2, 1953
To: Legal Attache
Havana, Cuba
From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Subject: JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - PR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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CLASS BY SP-1 CSK/BSK
DATE OF REVIEW MAR 9/2/82

A news article in the "Washington Star" of February 19, 1953, reflected that Josephine Baker was quizzed by Cuba's military intelligence service on February 18, 1953, concerning Baker's alleged Communist leanings. The article also reflected that she was released after "full questioning" and that she denied any connection with Communism.

cc - Foreign Service Desk

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Laughlin _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

LEGAT

10 MAR 4

COMM-FBI

63 MAR 13 1953

RECORDED 105

62-95834-24
30 MAR 5 1953

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DL

Tolson	_____
Ladd	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Clegg	_____
Glavin	_____
Harbo	_____
Rosen	_____
Tracy	_____
Laughlin	_____
Mohr	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Rm.	_____
Holloman	_____
Gandy	_____

Bridgman

zy'

Josephine Baker Quizzed -
 HAVANA, Cuba, Feb. 19.
 Cuba's military intelligence service said yesterday it had interrogated Josephine Baker about alleged Communist leanings, but released her after "full questioning." They said the American-born Negro singer, now a French citizen, denied any connection with Communism.

b7C
 62-95834

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b7C

File 5/12 62-95834

3-2-53 fegat Havana
b7C

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 DATE 9/2/82 BY SP-1 GY/PS

Times-Herald	_____
Wash. Post	_____
Wash. News	_____
Wash. Star	7-3
N.Y. Herald Tribune	_____
N.Y. Mirror	_____

62-95834-24

Date: FEB 1 1953

ENCLOSURE

99

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC, New Orleans
SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER
SM-C

DATE: 3-11-53

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

38917

[REDACTED] (S)
[REDACTED] (S)
[REDACTED] (S)

This information is being forwarded to the Bureau for any value it may have.

REGISTERED

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G.L.R.

CLASS BY SP-1 GSK/105K

DATE OF REVIEW

4/4/02

RECORDED 105

INDEXED 105

MAR 18 1953

162-95834-27

67 MAR 27 1953

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (62-95834) ~~SECRET~~ PS
FROM : Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba
SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER
FOREIGN MISCELLANEOUS

DATE: March 11, 1953
Havana, Cuba

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CLASS BY SP-1 GSK/RX

DATE OF REVIEW - DATE 9/2/82

Rebulet 3-2-53.

b1 [REDACTED] (C)
Apparently BAKER had a contract to appear on the CMQ radio and television network but the story was put out by CMQ that because she did not show up on the date agreed upon the contracts were canceled. BAKER had also made an arrangement with an advertising agency here to appear on their television show which advertises a cigarette, but the manager of CMQ refused to let her enter the studios. BAKER promptly staged a sitdown strike at the CMQ entrance, which, according to GOAR MESTRE of CMQ, was reinforced by the assistance of a Communist clique.

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b2D
There was not much attention given to BAKER here in Havana and Dr. JACOB CANTER, U. S. Cultural Affairs Officer, American Embassy, Havana, Cuba, advised on 3-5-53 that his contacts with the principal negro leaders of Havana resulted in his being informed that JOSEPHINE BAKER made no particular impression upon the Cuban negro population even if the Communist daily newspaper HOY did play up the racist views of BAKER.

Release
per
State
Dept.

b1
b1
Enclosures

WCS:JES

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b7C RECORDED - 44

62-95834-28
MAR 17 1953

~~SECRET~~
SECRET

ESP

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~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

To: Director, FBI (62-95894)

March 11, 1953
Havana, Cuba

Subject: JOSEPHINE BAKER
FOREIGN MISCELLANEOUS

[REDACTED] b1

While in Cuba BAKER was received by President FULGENCIO BATISTA but the press did not make much out of the incident.

About two years ago when JOSEPHINE BAKER was in Havana there was some publicity at the time about her being refused a room at the Hotel Nacional, which is the leading hotel in this country. Just prior to her current arrival in Cuba she cabled to the Hotel Sevilla Biltmore in downtown Havana for a reservation, but the Sevilla Biltmore replied that they were filled up. During her stay in Havana, BAKER lived in an apartment building at Calle N & 21. This apartment house caters to American tourist trade and is known to be well patronized by American gamblers.

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b1

Representative news clippings are attached.

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

Josephine Baker Fails In Try To Force CMQ To Let Her Perform

Josephine Baker "picketed" the Vedodo studios of CMQ yesterday afternoon and evening in an unsuccessful attempt to force the radio-TV station owners to employ her services.

Station Owner GEAR Mestre said the actress, whose contract he cancelled after three postponements on her part, could stand outside the building "until hell freezes over" before he would permit her to perform.

Mestre charged the American-born French performer with using a "Communist clique" to force him to hire her. "She had a 'show' all set up to tell for when she was refused entrance into the building," he commented.

The station owner said he would not permit Miss Baker or anyone else "to order me around." His station, he added, "does not make any distinction between a famous international star and the humblest local performer."

Mestre said his troubles started around 1:30 yesterday afternoon when Miss Baker forced her way into the building and took over a studio "for rehearsals." She was ejected, he explained, but returned an hour and a half later "with a Communist clique" to provoke a disorder.

When he scented her purpose, Mestre said, he sent down a chair for her to sit down in and told her to make herself comfortable for she was in for a long wait if she thought she was going to be admitted into the building again.

"I also sent down a newsreel crew to film the 'show'," he added, "to show to the Cuban public that CMQ has only one policy, and that it is applied no matter who it hurts." He said that Miss Baker had "insisted" that she must be presented on the Cabaret Regalias TV program last night, and "I cannot be ordered around."

Mestre had contracted Miss Baker in January, while she was in Buenos Aires, for a \$14,000 fortnight's series of theater, television and nightclub shows. When she arbitrarily postponed her opening date three times he added, he advised her by cable that her contract was cancelled.

When Miss Baker replied "rejecting" his cancellation, Mestre said, he warned her twice that she would proceed to Havana "at her own risk and expense." Mestre displayed photostatic copies of the cables exchanged to support his statement.

After her arrival in Havana, Mestre said, Miss Baker negotiated a contract with a local advertising agency to appear on the tobacco sponsor's Wednesday night program, but without the station's prior consent, as is required in all of its time contracts. He notified the agency that Miss Baker was unacceptable. Mestre said, since CMQ already had cancelled her prior contract with them.

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DATE 9/2/82 BY SP1 CXP/BL

"Havana Herald"
2-12-53
Havana, Cuba

DEC 7 1972

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XEROXED ORIGINAL RETAIN

62-95834-28

ENCLOSURE

05

"The agency acted on its own," he declared. "No client can use talent without first clearing it with the station. The station has refused her. Our decision is irrevocable."

Earlier, in a press conference called for local newsmen, Miss Baker had expressed "pain" over the coolness of her reception in Cuba and inferred she was being "persecuted" for her convictions. The anti-American sentiments she expressed in Buenos Aires, she alibied, "were to defend myself from the uncalled-for aggressions of North Americans."

In the press conference, held at her apartment in the Pizarro Building, N and 21 Strets, Vedado, Miss Baker denied she was "in anybody's service." (She has been accused by American newspapers of being a "transmission belt" for Communist anti-American propaganda.)

Miss Baker also denied she was seeking publicity. She said she

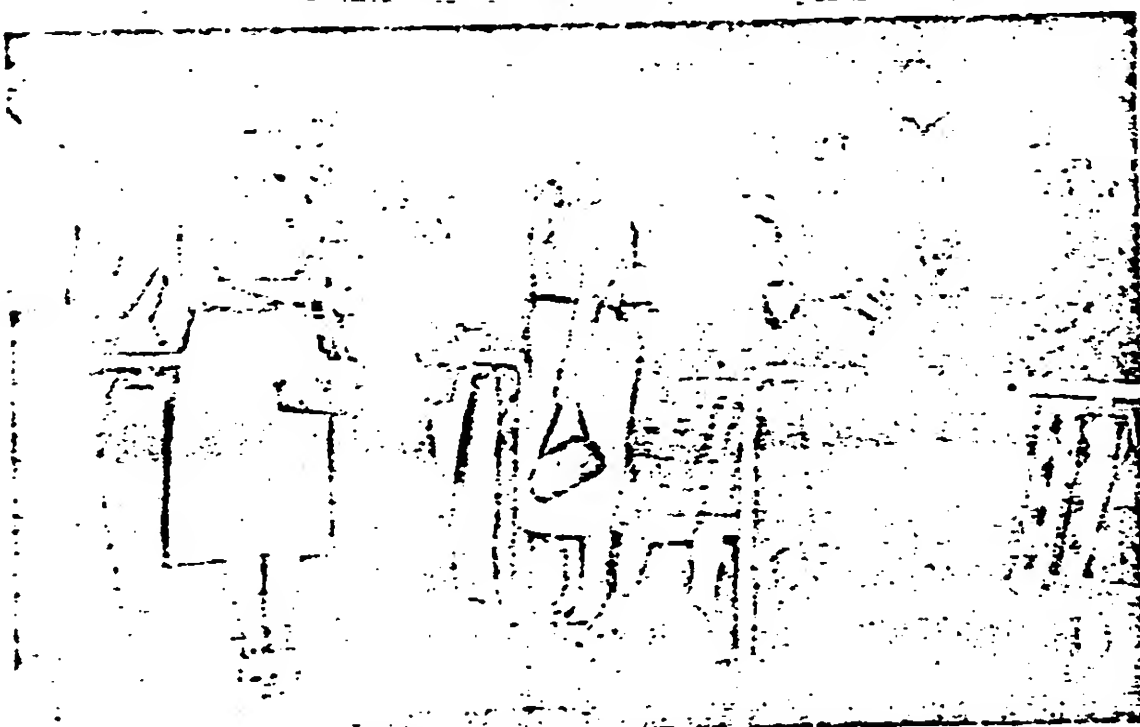
had come to Cuba to "work as an artiste... and not to lecture... but in view of what I see and hear, I feel I must (speak out)..."

"When one is gravely ill," she added, "one must do something to save one's self."

She said that since her arrival she had "almost" signed a contract to appear at the America Theater but that the manager Gabriel Guzman, had backed out because he did not want to run the risk of losing his American films franchise.

She said if her alleged "persecution" continued, she would "not hesitate" to appeal for support of the "millions of human beings of beaten races."

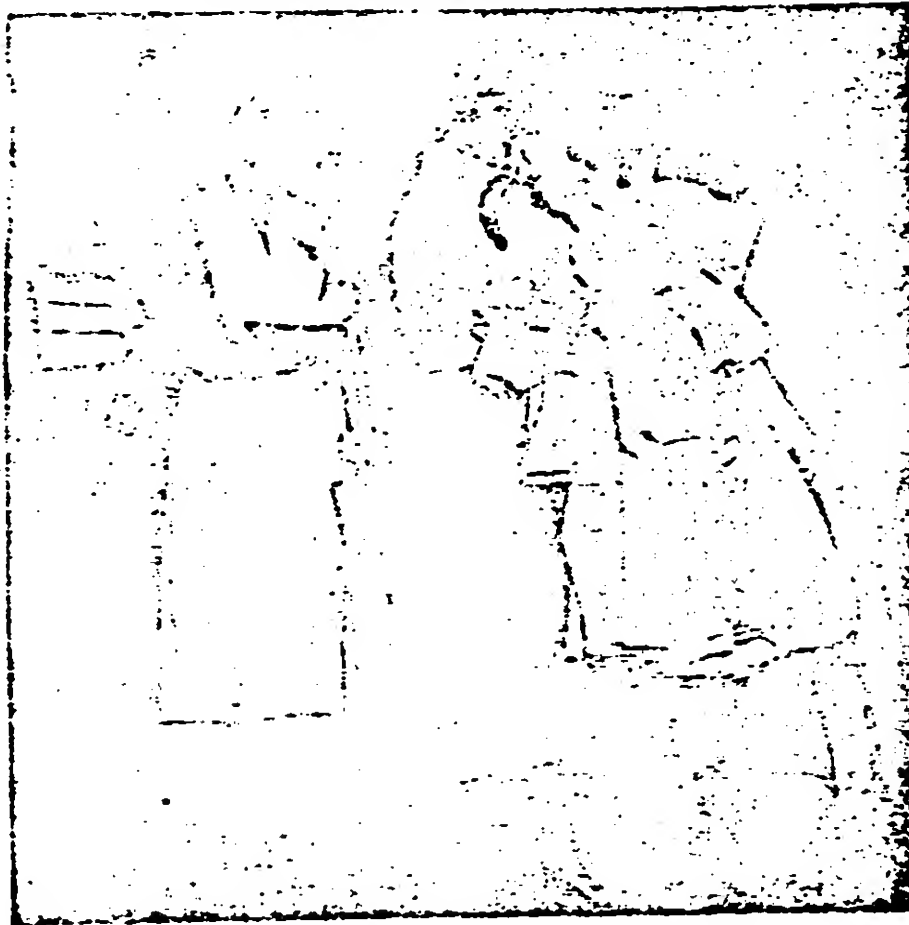
She reiterated her admiration for Argentina's dictator, Juan Peron, and said his "friendship" was worth much more to her "than the enmity of a number of foreigners."



FIGHT — Miss Josephine Baker attempted to enter the CUBA studios at 21 and 22nd Streets yesterday afternoon to protest the cancellation of her contract to appear on the "Cabaret Argentina" program. She was detained by a guard, and refused admittance. Miss Baker is seen above (left, facing camera) with her costume thrown over the rail of her side. She remained at her post for several hours until her lawyer arrived. (HERALD photo by Suarez)

File 670
100

Una hermosa batalla por la libertad



"A mí me interesa más ganar esta pelea por la dignidad humana, que ganar 12 mil dólares." Así expresó Josephine Baker en la puerta de la CMQ, al serle notificada que había sido contratada en Caracas. Ante la insistente y vejatosa actitud

de los empresarios de la empresa de radio y televisión, negándole la entrada a los estudios a la gran actriz, donde tenía que cumplir su contrato, Josephine Baker anunció su firma definitiva de no ir a Cuba, para reclamar sus derechos a actuar ante el público cubano.

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DATE 9/4/02 BY SP1/BSH/pt

"Roy"
2-12-53
Havana, Cuba

"En las batallas por la libertad, muchos han caído; quizás a mí me toque ser sacrificada, pero eso no me importa: hay que luchar por el progreso"

Hermosa batalla por la libertad, la justicia y los derechos humanos libró ayer en la CMQ Josephine Baker. Negóse la empresa radiotelevisora a permitirle la entrada en los estudios, para que no pueda cumplir su contrato.

"A las cuatro de la tarde del hoy he recibido una oferta de Caracas. Quieren que entorpezca para tantas que más abajo exponemos, ella con un contrato de 12 mil dólares también. Pero no me voy. Seguramente. Hay que tener que saber que Cuba. A mí me interesa más por el dinero compra a muchos, pero talia Caracas seremos libres."

Esto declaró para ROY Josephine Baker.

Y en esta misma entrevista, realizada en las circunstancias circun-

Por O. PINO

libertad, mucho, han caído. Quisiera al me haya tocado ser la sacrificada. Eso no me importa. Hay que luchar por el progreso; si nosotros no hubieran caído en esta batalla, Caracas seremos libres."

Lugar de la entrevista. La entrevista fue en el vestíbulo de los estudios de CMQ-Televisión. En ese lugar, ayer por la tarde, una grande y valiente artista protagonizó una hermosa batalla.

Realizada en la Plaza de la Revolución.

670

107

"En las batallas..."

—Continuación de la PRIMERA—

por la libertad, la justicia y los derechos humanos con su gallardo actitud frente a los monopolios yanquis y sus testafierros en nuestro país.

Josephine Baker, la genial actriz francesa, permaneció ayer durante varias horas, en el citado lugar, de pie, mientras varios policías y porteros, obedeciendo las órdenes de la empresa CMQ-TV, impedían su entrada a los estudios para cumplir su contrato.

La Baker, tenía un contrato con la firma "Repalías El Cuño", para trabajar anoche misterios en el programa "Cabalet Repalías".

En cumplimiento de las fórmulas del mismo, la artista concurre ayer por la tarde, a efectuar los encargos correspondientes.

La Empresa CMQ-TV, sin embargo, le manifestó que había decidido rescindir el contrato.

CMQ-TV, según con esto, evidentemente, la consigna emanada de la Embajada yanqui de impedir la actuación en Cuba de la gran denunciadora de las atrocidades de la discriminación racial en Estados Unidos.

LLEGADA DE LA ARTISTA

La Baker concurre a ensayar tal y como se había convenido—ayer a la una de la tarde.

Se le impidió entonces que ensayara.

Volvió a la una y media: tampoco pudo hacer nada.

Entonces se le dijo que a las tres y media podía volver.


A esa hora exacta volvió... para encontrarse que se habían dado órdenes a la Policía para que impidiera su entrada.

Lo que sucedió entonces es un ejemplo del que debe quedar constancia en nuestra historia.

Revela un caso de los más escandalosos de sumisión de un sector de la clase dominante a una orden talante del imperialismo.

Implica un verdadero ultraje a la cultura, a lo más noble del arte, a lo más esencial de la dignidad humana.

Y es también un ejemplo de firmeza, de valentía, de pura rebeldía, brindado por una extraordinaria mujer.

7015- 670
101

A LAS 3 Y 30 P.M.

La Baker llegó con sus dos acompañantes a la entrada de los estudios CMQ TV a las 3 y 30 minutos exactamente.

Después rápidamente del momento. Una de sus acompañantes portaba los vestidos del ensayo que la artista se disponía a efectuar.

Luego de ascender las escaleras que conducen al vestíbulo de entrada, las dos señoras se adelantaron para cruzar la misma, formada por la separación de una baranda de hierro.

En ese momento el portero abrió la puerta y dijo:

—¿Un momento? Ustedes no pueden entrar.

Las señoras respondieron con un gesto de sorpresa:

—¿Cómo? ¿qué no podemos entrar?

—No.

—Mire, haga el favor de apartarse.

El portero persistió:

—Les digo que no pueden entrar.

—Nosotros estamos citados por la empresa.

—¿Y la empresa me dio órdenes de que le impidiera entrar?

—No me alborote.

El ambiente se puso tenso.

Intervino el policía de la entrada, con gesto descompuesto:

—¡Váyanse! Hay órdenes de que no pasen y no pasen.

La Baker exclamó:

—Tráigan a Mr. Wilkenson.

—¡Eso es un insulto a una ciudadana francesa!

Alguien dijo entonces: —¿Qué canalada!

Y una de las secretarias de Madame Baker, cubana, agregó:

—¡Algun día los cubanos nos gobernaron a nosotros mismos!

La artista avanzó.

—¡Atrás!

—¡No me toque!

—¡No le toca, pero no intente entrar!

En ese momento llegó un empleado de la radio-emisora. Traía consigo los trajes de baño que la artista había dejado a la una de la tarde. Al verlos, la Baker exclamó:

—Yo no le he pedido esos vestidos. Yo le he pedido a Mr. Wilkenson.

—Buena—respondió el empleado— pero esto es lo que le mandaron de allá arriba, —y señaló las oficinas.

—Pero yo no le he pedido.

El empleado dejó el vestido sobre la baranda de hierro y se fue.

La Baker aclaró:

—Eso, prender los dejó arriba. Y arriba los buscaré. Si usted lo deja ahí, usted será el responsable.

A las 3 y 45 le trajeron a la señora artista una silla para que se sentara.

Se sentó a ella.

Y se alejó rápidamente de la silla con un gesto que daba la impresión de que la quemaba.

SE RETRATA

Durante varias horas, la Baker siguió en pie en el vestíbulo.

Cientos de personas estaban expectantes por los alrededores. Por cualquier se escuchaba el comentario entendido y las expresiones de admiración a la artista.

Ella, amigable, conversaba con todo el que se acercaba.

Cerca de las 4 de la tarde de-

caron varios fotógrafos. La Baker se retiró, pero junto a media docena de jóvenes, egresos que se lavaban en la cerranía.

Al hacerlo, los tendió las manos por las espaldas y junto con el símbolo abrazó a cada uno con cariño.

ENTREVISTA

En unos breves momentos en que estuvo sola, tuvimos la extraordinaria oportunidad de hacerle una entrevista a la valiente mujer.

Al presentarnos, nos preguntó de cual Periódico éramos. Se lo dijimos. Y ella respondió sencillamente:

—HOY, sí, lo conozco.

—Que coraje, que firme determinación de lucha, que generoso desprendimiento, cantamos en las palabras de la Baker!

Al comenzar la entrevista, sacó de su bolso tejido un cablegrama y nos lo dio a leer.

Decía así:

Josephine Baker.

CMQ, Vedado.

Habana.

4 de la tarde.

Tengo Empresa sin venta contra-ria 15 días prorrogables. Debe- tar medidos de Marzo, 12 mil dó- lares. Tengo todo arreglado. Te- tro, vitado, ingreso, etc. Aceptan- do cablegramas para salir in- mediatamente. Puede estar seg- ura quedará contenta. Abraces.

Barnum.

Caracas.

La Baker le guardó de nuevo.

Y entonces, con una sonrisa que jamás olvidaremos nos dijo:

—Son 12 mil pesos. Pero eso no importa. Me rechazado la ofer- ta. A mí me interesa más ganar por la dignidad humana, que ganar 12 mil pesos.

Y agregó:

—Hay alguien que tiene que comprender que con el dinero se compra mucha gente. ¡Pero no a todo el mundo!

Y, siguió en su magníficamente pronunciado inglés:

—¿Usted sabe? Hay que pelear para progresar. Si muchos no ha- bieran caído en la batalla por la verdadera libertad, ¿podríamos ser libres?

Luego añadió, pero no con un gesto de amargura, sino de firme y valiente orgullo:

—Claro. Algunos caídos en la lucha. Quizá a mí me haya tocado ser la primera en el sacrificio. Pero ello no lo haré. Seguiremos adelante.

SEGUIRE AQUÍ HASTA EL FINAL

A la hora del cierre de esta edición Josephine Baker continú- a en la entrada de los estudios de la CMQ hasta que llegara la hora de la emisión del "Cabaret Real" que podrá televisualizarse a las ocho y treinta de la noche. "Es- taré aquí hasta que ellos firmen el contrato firmado", dijo la afamada actriz.

Como detalle curioso queremos apuntar que desde la Embajada francesa hicieron una llamada a la Baker en el vestíbulo de la CMQ. Cuando la actriz descolgó el auricular y se dispuso a en- tablar la conversación, manot "misteriosas" cortaron la comuni- cación.

"AQUELLOS QUE RECIBEN ORDENES DE EE. UU. Y LAS EJECUTAN, HAN PERDIDO SU SENTIDO DE LA DIGNIDAD" - JOSEPHINE BAKER

*"Me duele pensar que aquí
en Cuba el "pulpo" tenga
una tan grande influencia"*

ANUNCIA LA EXIMIA ACTRIZ QUE DARA CONFERENCIAS EN EL PAIS

Revela Josephine Baker la presión de los monopolios
yanquis para que impidan su actuación en Cuba

Por Hugo CERVANTES

"Me duele pensar que aquí en La Habana, en Cuba, el "pulpo" hubiera ganado una influencia tan grande". Así dijo a los periodistas cubanos Josephine Baker, en la Conferencia de Prensa que convocó antes de ayer para explicar las acciones de que viene rodeado el país, y a la que asistieron en representación de nuestro HOY.

"Si alguien me hubiera dicho —continúa la eximia actriz— que esto pasaría aquí en Cuba, yo hubiera jurado que es imposible."

Y a continuación con un rictus de tristeza en su expresivo rostro:

"La fuerza del "pulpo" es tan grande aquí en Cuba, que tiene toda las finanzas y la prensa en sus garras."

Josephine Baker es una afamada artista, cuya fama corre por todo el mundo. Supo levantarse, paso a paso, hacia los últimos peldaños de la popularidad y de la gloria.

Pero Josephine Baker, es sobre todo una gran mujer de su tiempo. Cuando Francia lo exigió, Josephine se unió a la resistencia francesa. Su arte no sirvió para deleitar a los nazis. Hoy, ante las brutales atropellos de que son objeto sus hermanos de raza en los Estados Unidos, Josephine se sienta en el puesto de honor, junto al gran patriota americano Paul Robeson.

Esa doble personalidad artística y cívica, le ha granjeado a la Baker el cariño entrañable de los pueblos de nuestra América, que aprendieron con Martí a aborrecer a los discriminadores, a los que, por motivos inconfesables de desmedida explotación, se niegan a mantener a los pueblos fríos y hambrientos, divididos por barreras de color o de creencia.

Y lo ha ganado, por otra parte, la ardida persecución de los discriminadores, de los tenebrosos burocratas, de los linchadores que promueven a cada rato una horrenda cacería de negros en el "norte pequeño y bravo".

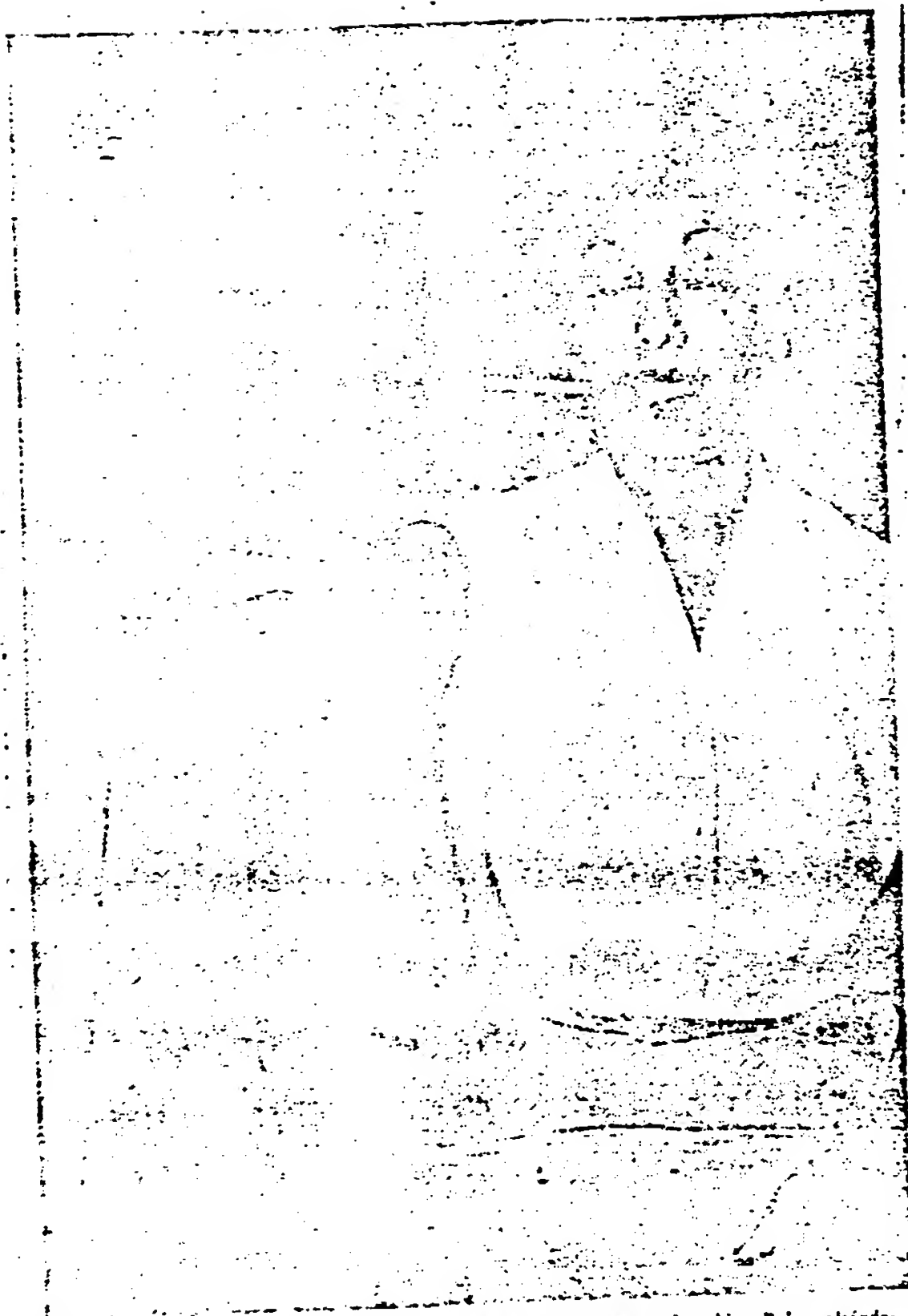
La simpatía que sienten los pueblos se acrecienta cuando la mujer, la infatigable luchadora por los derechos de sus hermanos perseguidos, supera a la artista y desafiando todos los obstáculos, que estarían a su disposición tan pronto abjurara de sus principios, mantiene su valerosa actitud de siempre.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 9/2/82 BY SP/AS/108

"Hoy"
2-12-53
Havana, Cuba

62-95834

31 APR 29 1953



"Me duele pensar que aquí en La Habana, en tan grande", expresa Josephine Baker alzando-
Cuba, al "pulpo" haya ganado una influencia se en toda su vibrante dignidad

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"Aquellos que reciben órdenes de E.E. UU. y las cumplen, han..."

—Entrevista a la SEÑAL—
 al tomar a nadie ni a nada, "con el valor de sus convicciones".

HABLA LA ACTRIZ

La esbelta figura de Josephine se agita en su asiento. De pronto se pone de pie. Sus ojos, bellísimos, se hacen más expresivos y en su rostro, tenso y fresco, a pesar del tiempo, se retrata su valiente decisión.

"Ha llegado la hora de romper el silencio. Explicaré muchas cosas que han sucedido antes y después de mi llegada a La Habana, a fin de que quede claro que no soy una provocadora, ni una agitadora", nos dice la Baker.

Y explica inmediatamente:

"Soy fundadora de la "Asociación Cultural Mundial, contra la discriminación racial y religiosa", que estoy organizando en diferentes países del mundo... Las asociaciones son para fomentar la buena voluntad y las relaciones armónicas entre la Humanidad, haciéndole conocer las realizaciones de las gentes de color del mundo, en el terreno de las artes, la ciencia, las profesiones y los deportes. También para darles a conocer a las gentes de color del mundo, las realizaciones de sus hermanos blancos, en este mismo terreno."

"La asociación es para proteger firmemente los derechos humanos de todos los individuos, sin distinción de raza, color o credo. Para luchar por la completa abolición de los prejuicios raciales y religiosos, donde quiera que se encuentren. Para defender con lógica y justicia, a todos aquellos que son objeto de represalias, o de ataques debido a su color, raza o credo."

"Creo que ha llegado el tiempo para todas las razas, religiones y credos, de surirse para la futura paz del mundo."

"La Asociación se propone dictar conferencias que tiendan a acercar a todas las gentes del mundo. Existe un dicho que expresa: "La ignorancia es bendita", pero para mi manera de ver, el enemigo mortal de la civilización y el progreso, es la ignorancia."

Josephine se detiene. Se pregunta su cuerpo estancado, su palabra es más firme ahora:

"Esta es la razón de por qué me atacan los gobiernos norteamericanos. Pero se equivocan si creen que lograrán detenerme y hacerme desistir de mi lucha en fa-

vor de la Humanidad. Esta campaña la mantengo en los propios Estados Unidos durante todo el tiempo que permaneci allí, para a las amenazas de que fui objeto."

PRETENTOS PARA IMPEDIR SU ACTUACIÓN

"Para impedir mi actuación en Cuba —explica Josephine Baker— se ha pretextado que llegué después de la fecha señalada para comenzar mi actuación. Esto no es cierto, pues mi debut estaba fijado para el día 9 de febrero y yo llegué el día 4."

Y como para fijar el verdadero origen de la agresión inculcadora, relata en seguida cómo, después de lograr rescindir el contrato firmado para actuar en CMC, en televisión y en un cabaret, se puso en contacto con ella el señor Gabriel Guzmán intercediendo en lograr su actuación en el Teatro América.

"Cuán no sería mi sorpresa al visitarme el Sr. Guzmán, no para firmar el contrato moral que ya existía, sino para decirme que sentía mucho no poder hacer negocios conmigo, porque si lo hacía la Metro Goldwyn-Meyer, que le sirve películas, rompería su contrato con él."

Josephine Baker habla con calor y sus palabras, ayudadas marcialmente por las manos, los ojos, por todo su expresivo cuerpo, hacen casi innecesario el traductor.

"¿Qué vergüenza —dice con la ira retratada en el rostro—, qué cosa tan terrible quitar ilusiones a las gentes sencillas que no pueden ver la vida de una manera más dulce, de la maravillosa manera que los cubanos la veían antes!"

"Siento mucho no poder cumplir este contrato... Lo siento porque no puedo presentarme ante el querido público cubano, al que adoro y creo que también me adora. Pero sucede así, aunque están en su país han perdido sus derechos y el privilegio de disfrutar del espectáculo de una artista que viene a su país... Eso es triste, pero desgraciadamente verdadero."

Terminando en sus palabras todo el fuego de su temperamento extraordinario, Josephine clava en la punta a los semetidos al imperalismo yanqui:

"Aquellos que reciben órdenes o insinuaciones de los Estados Unidos y les ejecutan, en mi opinión, han perdido su sentido de dignidad."

Y agrega enseguida:

"La mayoría de los cubanos no son responsables de esto, pero los responsables están cometiendo el crimen más grande que el hombre pueda concebir."

La mujer digna y cívica que hay en la eximia actriz, acepta, con toda la responsabilidad inherente, el reto que le han lanzado los discriminadores y guerristas del Norte, en cuyas entrañas ha vivido Josephine Baker. Ella, que no tuvo miedo enfrentarse a los nazis invasores de su patria, tampoco lo tiene ahora al enfrentarse a los que han tomado el lugar de Hitler.

"Cuando un enfermo está grave, el deber del médico es hacer todos los esfuerzos posibles por salvarle la vida", dice ella, y termina expresando su decisión inquebrantable: "No había pensado dar conferencias en Cuba, pero ahora creo necesario darlas para que la gente comprenda lo que está sucediendo."

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

62-85834-28

RECORDED-88

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

To: March 27, 1953

Re: Mr. John W. Ford
 Director
 Office of Security
 Department of State
 215 22nd Street, N. W.
 Washington, D. C.

Classified
6-14-54
R.B. 6-1-54
mt

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
 Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOSEPHINE BAKER
 INTERNAL SECURITY - FR

CLASS BY SP-1 CSK/RBK

DATE OF REVIEW MMR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
 WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Reference is made to our memorandum of February 27, 1953, a copy of which was designated for the Central Intelligence Agency, containing information from our files concerning the captioned individual.

Recent news articles reflect that the subject was in Havana, Cuba, during the month of February, 1953.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Released per State Dept. agency advised on March 2, 1953, that his contacts with principal Negro leaders in Havana, resulted in his being

Classified per State Dept.
 letter CSK/RBK 11/1/53

RECEIVED
 MAR 27 4 20 PM '53

- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Glavin _____
- Harbo _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Quinn Tamm _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holloman _____
- Miss Gandy _____

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BY SPL. MSGR.

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7/10/52
Latter copy

Released per State Dept.

It is noted that Josephine Baker has a particular impression
upon the Cuban Negro population, though the Communist
daily newspaper "Revolucion" did play up the racist views of Baker.

[REDACTED]

While in Cuba, Baker was received by President
Fulgencio Batista; however, the press did not publicize this
incident to a great extent.

[REDACTED]

These data are being furnished for your confidential
use with the request they not be disseminated outside of
your Agency.

[REDACTED]

cc - 2 - The Commissioner (your reference T-2321267 dated
Immigration and Naturalization Service December 9, 1952
INT:FKH)

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EXCISEREVIEWED BY DSW DATE 4/3/83Air Pouch**CONFIDENTIAL**
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REMARKS: HABANA552(4)(7)(C)

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

March 3, 1953

DATE

REF : Embassy Despatch No. 1312 of February 19 and previous

FOR DEPT.	ACTION	DEPT.	MR	OL	I	DS	DI	DS	MR/X	BY	Received from the State Department
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SUBJECT: Josephine Baker

With even less fanfare than at her arrival, Josephine Baker left by air for Europe on February 25 after a three-week stay in Habana during which she vented anew—but with limited results—her views on racial discrimination in the United States and her admiration of President Perón.

Miss Baker's visit to Cuba must be considered of little value to her cause. She failed to enroll President Batista in her World Association Against Racial and Religious Discrimination. She made no talks, and the press conference she called was attended only by communist-line reporters and a few from papers of little significance.

She did not appear on television or at the night club where she originally had been booked, but did entertain for a week at the Teatre Campeonor, a run-down house which a year ago was a burlesque palace. She is also reported to have attended a play put on by a company under the Argentine director Francisco Petrone, and sang one or two numbers afterward. The applause given her was termed perfunctory.

Miss Baker's artistic activities were a far cry from what she had expected in Cuba. Her contracts on CMQ-TV and at the Montmartre night club were cancelled because she had delayed her arrival date so many times by telegram that her local employers said they were fed up. The Communist press, naturally, charged the American Embassy had intervened, which was not the case.

All in all, Miss Baker's influence on Cuban Negroes may well be appraised as negligible. The Negro press ignored her, and Negro societies made no fuss over her.

Gastón Baquero, city editor of Diario de la Marina, explained to an Embassy officer that the attitude of the Cuban Negro toward the United States has changed radically in the last few years and that the Cuban Negro is now aware that real progress is being made in the United States toward the elimination of racial discrimination.

For the Ambassador:

RG Cushing/Sar**CONFIDENTIAL**
SECURITY INFORMATIONRichard G. Cushing
Information Officer

50 MAR 23 1953

INFORMATION COPY

Retain in divisional files or destroy in accordance with security regulations.

62-95834-29

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SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Belmont

Assistant Attorney General
Warren Olney III

March 27, 1953

Director, FBI

JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - PR

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 GSK/BK
ON 9/2/82

Reference is made to our memorandum to the Attorney General dated October 15, 1952, entitled "Josephine Baker" with an attachment containing information taken from our files concerning Baker.

Attached for your information is one copy of a memorandum dated March 27, 1953, to the State Department, which contains information concerning the captioned individual.

62-95834

Attachment

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[redacted] PP

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

May 4, 1953

The Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service
Director, FBI Attention: Mr. Raymond Farrell
Assistant Commissioner

JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - FR

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DATE OF REVIEW 9/3/82

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- Glavin _____
- Harbo _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Laughlin _____
- Mohr _____
- Winterrowd _____
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- Holloman _____
- Gandy _____

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MAY 4 - 1953
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MAY 15 1953

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INFORMATION - CON. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service

July 22, 1953

Attention: Mr. Raymond F. Farrell
Assistant Commissioner

Director, FBI

61360

JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - PR

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The Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service

December 23, 1953

Director, FBI

JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

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- Tolson
- Ladd
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- Clegg
- Glavin
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Harbo
- Quinn
- Nease
- Gandy

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62-95834

BY COURIER SERVICE

Date: February 2, 1954

To:

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

CLASS BY SP-1 GSK/RSK

DATE OF REVIEW

9/3/82

Reference is made to our memorandum of
March 27, 1953, to the Department of State, a copy
of which was designated for [redacted]

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It would be appreciated if you could
furnish this Bureau any information in your possession
concerning the subject.

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FEB 3 1954

BY COURIER SVC.
FEB 3 1954
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET3

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-95834-40

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RECORDED - 15
EX - 106
62-95834-40

Date: April 7, 1954

To: [REDACTED] b2

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - PR

Reference is made to [REDACTED] dated March 23, 1954, furnishing information on the captioned individual and requesting any additional pertinent data on subject in our files. b1 b2

Your attention is invited to our memorandum dated March 27, 1954 to the Department of State, [REDACTED] and to previous communications in this case which contain a summary of all of the pertinent information on the subject in our files.

We would appreciate receiving any additional information concerning the subject which comes to your attention.

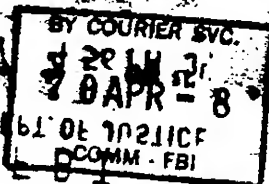
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

CLASS. BY SP-1 GSR/PSK

DATE OF REVIEW [REDACTED]

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Mohr _____
Trotter _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

58 APR 13 1954



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~~SECRET~~

b7C



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy
Paris 8, France

Date: April 5, 1954

To: Director, FBI (62-95834)

From: Legal Attache, Paris (105-245)

Subject: JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - FR

Reourlet January 7, 1953.

Re of possible interest to the Bureau, there is enclosed herewith one copy of a Confidential Report prepared by WILLIAM A. CRAWFORD, Political Section of the U. S. Embassy, Paris. The Report is dated March 31, 1954, and is on the subject "JOSEPHINE BAKER on Race Prejudice." (S)(u)

Enclosure (1)

ROL:AM

CLASS. BY SP-1 GSK/BSK

DATE OF REVIEW 9/3/82

RECORDED-87

INDEXED-85

EX-127

CONFIDENTIAL

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5 5 APR 19 1954

APR 12 1954

162-95834-41

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12

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/C

10
EXCISE

RECEIVED BY DSW

9/13/55

CONFIDENTIAL

W. B. E. BATT

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DECLASSIFIED RELEASEABLE

RELEASE DENIED

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS 552 (A)(4)

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS 552 (A)(4)

2507

March 31, 1956

Despatch No. 982 of March 10, 1954

Josephine Baker on Race Prejudice

In the light of Embassy Copenhagen's reference despatch on Baker's recent public talks in Denmark on race prejudice, it is deemed desirable to comment on her activities in France in the connection. Highly regarded in France as an entertainer, she has also established something of a reputation here in the past for her role as a defender of the racially oppressed. Although her activities in this regard have occasionally exposed her to charges of pro-Communism, the Embassy has uncovered no supporting evidence to give them substance. It is noted that an article of hers appeared in 1949 in a Soviet review and that she has supported several racial cases much publicized by the Communist press involving American negroes.

Miss Baker long since gave up her American citizenship to become a French citizen. According to her statements, she had suffered the adverse consequences of racial discrimination in the United States, and apparently she is now bent on exposing such conditions wherever she goes. In doing so, she represents a French organization, the "Comite International contre le Racisme et l'Antisemitisme" (ICARA), under the leadership of which she has made a number of speeches in France and elsewhere. The last such speech prior to her Copenhagen trip was delivered on December 20, 1953 in Paris at the Palais de la Mutualite. Her text, as published in serial form in the January, February and March issues of Droit de Vivre, was almost identical to that given in Copenhagen. In both talks, she was careful to state that she was not hostile to any of the countries she mentioned but was merely fighting against intolerable conditions wherever she found them. She also stated that whereas she has been charged with being a Communist because of the stand she has taken on race prejudice, she is not associated with any political party.

At the same time, it is worth noting that Miss Baker's attacks on race prejudice are preponderantly directed against the United States and that any criticism of race prejudice in Soviet-controlled countries is conspicuously absent from her remarks. Moreover, after a trip to South America and the United States, Miss Baker in 1949 wrote an account of her experiences entitled Mon Voyage aux Etats-Unis, which was published in the French Communist youth front weekly Avant-Garde, No. 261 for October 24-November 2, 1949, with the notation that it was

Sent to Crawford:cz

CONFIDENTIAL

62-95834-41

ENCLOSURE

62-95834-41

120

reproduced from the Soviet review, L'Europe du Monde. The article was highly critical of racial conditions in the United States, and its appearance in such periodicals was an indication that she apparently had no objection at the time to the use of her name and efforts by the Communists. Moreover, she has not hesitated to defend such Communist-touted "causes célèbres" of so-called racial discrimination in the United States as those of Willie McGee and Walter Scott.

However, LICIA, with which she is associated, is not a Communist front, unlike its local counterpart in the sphere of racial relations, the Mouvement Contre le Racisme, l'Anti-Sémitisme et pour la Paix (M.C.R.A.P.). LICIA was organized in 1927 and claims to be one of the oldest groups of its kind in the world. Its monthly organ, Droit de Vivre, takes a vigorous stand against what it regards as racial discrimination wherever it occurs, and it has from time to time published strong denunciations of anti-Semitism behind the iron curtain, particularly at the time of the Prague trials. Although it has a left-wing orientation, it is strongly anti-Stalinist. A list of its officers, elected at the 16th National Congress in October 1953, is attached (Enclosure 1). There are some ex-Trotskyites and neutralists among them, but none is known to the Embassy as a member of the Communist Party.

In sum, Miss Baker appears to have confined her political interest to the question of race prejudice. Although in several instances of this kind, she has identified herself with Communist-supported causes, her activity of a representative character seems to have been limited to her association with LICIA, an anti-Communist organization against racial discrimination, whose position in regard to the Willie McGee case and other cases in question happens to have coincided with that of the Communists. There is no evidence, however, that she has otherwise identified herself with campaigns backed by the Communists, in a Communist front or has been associated with any Communist organization or front. In view of her occasional visits to the United States, it is believed particularly desirable that the Department be fully informed of the foregoing views of the Embassy in her regard.

G. McArthur Godley
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure: 1. Central Bureau of the Central Committee of LICIA

Embassy pouching copy to: American Embassy, COPENHAGEN

Embassy distribution:

Amb	Logan	1/2
Min	Deft	4
Pol/ACG	Thayer	3
Public	Harrison	3
Pres	McGee	2
Lab	ASA	1/2

Vic Section
CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

CENTRAL BUREAU OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, 1953-1954

President

State
BC
OB

03115507030

UNCLASSIFIED

132

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASS BY SP-1 GSK/pk

CC TO: *OSI*
REQ. REC'D *10-17*
NOV 13 1962
BY: *Shay*

DATE OF REVIEW

9/3/82

April 16, 1954

APR 19 1954
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JOSEPHINE BAKER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Attached hereto is a Photostat of a memorandum dated November 14, 1952, concerning Josephine Baker, born June 3, 1906, at St. Louis, Missouri. There is also attached a memorandum dated January 7, 1953, concerning Josephine Baker, [redacted] b1

In addition to the attached information, newspaper articles during the month of February, 1953, indicated that Josephine Baker was in Havana, Cuba. [redacted] b1

[redacted] b7C
[redacted] b7D

The representative of another Government agency advised on March 3, 1953, that his contacts with principal Negro leaders in Havana, resulted in his being informed that Josephine Baker made no particular impression upon the Cuban Negro population even though the Communist Daily Newspaper "Rev" did play up the racist views of Baker. [redacted] b1

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Tracy
- Harbo
- Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Miss Gandy

Orig to 82

Request received: 4-6-54

RECORDED - 115

INDEXED - 115

CONFIDENTIAL

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APR 29 1954

55 AUG 4 1954 270

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~~SECRET~~
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While in Cuba, Baker was received by President Fulgencio Batista; however, the press did not publicize this incident to a great extent.

[REDACTED]

b1

(62-95894-28)

You may also desire to check the records of the State Department, Immigration and Naturalization Service for information concerning Josephine Baker.

b2

The foregoing information is furnished to you as the result of your request for a FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

Attachment

Tolson _____
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Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gearty _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

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0102637

62-95834

Date: April 21, 1954

~~SECRET~~ AIR COURIERTo: Legal Attache
Paris, FranceALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

From: Director, FBI

Subject: JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - FRCLASS. BY SP-1 BSK/PSK
DATE OF REVIEW 10/8/82

The following appeared in Walter Winchell's column of April 9, 1954, in the "New York Daily Mirror":

"How does the U. S. Consul at Paris, France, explain issuing an American visa to anti-American speech maker, Josephine Baker? Isn't he acquainted with her rantings against the U. S. in Argentina and elsewhere? Isn't he familiar with the regulations at U. S. Immigration? They stopped admitting persons to these shores for being a Nazi, Commy or Fascist sympathizer...We aided in getting this Ingrate into the U. S. a few years ago. After her manager said: 'She asked me to find out what you would do or say about her giving up her U. S. citizenship,' to which we said: 'Oh, how's her act?'...we plugged her act into \$26,000 a week until she staged a 'show' at the Stork Club...When her trick boomeranged, she staged some 'shows' against the U. S. and has been since."

You should determine from the U. S. Embassy, Paris, if the captioned individual has recently been issued a U. S. visa or if the foregoing information pertains to a U. S. visa which she was issued when coming to the United States in 1953. You should also be alert to furnish the Bureau any information reflecting her return to the United States.

cc - 1 - Foreign Service Desk

b7C [redacted] etc

NOTE: Legal Attache has background information in this case.

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gearty _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

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APR 23 1954

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27 APR 23

APR 23 1954

EX-122

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ON 10/8/82

b7C



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy
Paris 18, France

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

Date: May 13, 1954
To: Director, FBI (62-95834)
From: Legal Attache, Paris [105-245]
Subject: JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - FR
ReBulet April 21, 1954.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

alp 1-1

(b)(3) per
State Dept.
ltr. 9/28/83
(8 USC 1202(f))

[REDACTED]

b3
(8 USC
1202(f))
not
9/28/83

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/1/82 BY SP-1 CSK/PSK
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DATE OF REVIEW NAAR 9/3/82

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RECORDED-45
EX-106

SE-331,2-95834-44

MAY 19 1954

INDEXED-45

SECRET

cd to TWS
cc NY
6-7-54
b7c

b7c

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

The Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service

JUNE 7, 1954

Director, FBI ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - FB

38910

JUN 17 1954

JUN 18 1954

[REDACTED]

b1
b1(3)
OR State Dept
USC 1802(f)

MAILED 7
JUN 7 1954
COMM-FBI

62-25034-44

NY - 2 - New York (62-0)

NOTE FOR NY:

[REDACTED]

JUN 9 1954

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

b3
RECORDED
INDEXED
Mr. Tolson
Mr. E.A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

137

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Immigration and Naturalization Service, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-95834-45

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-95834-NR 1-1-54

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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TRUE COPY

Los Angeles
June 7 - 52

Dear Sirs -

Daily papers proclaim Josephine Baker to be -
allowed to roam U.S.A - She is a renowned Red -
defiant of law & order. I am ashamed to admit I
paid money to see an ignorant, insulting and the
poorest performer I ever saw at our downtown
theatre her last time here. her inuendos to
public on behalf of Blk & white sex stuff too
much -- lets watch who employs this trouble
maker She's here for no good., an intermediary
for something or some one--

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/3/82 BY SP-1 CLK/PSK

for answer required
JUN 25 1954
copy to identify

TRUE COPY

file in
62-95834

b7C D

[REDACTED]

did not live

Norm. Cal.

[REDACTED]

JOSEPHINE BAKER

Norm. Cal., N.Y.

62-95834

[REDACTED]

1537

[REDACTED]

b7C

b7C

Called D.

5 copies.

Los Angeles
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 9/3/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK
 Daily paper, [REDACTED]
 Josephine Baker to be
 allowed to roam U.S.A.
 She is a renowned Red
 defiant of law & order
 I am ashamed to admit
 I paid money to see an
 ignorant, insulting and the
 poorest performer I ever
 saw at our downtown
 theatre her last time here.
 Her incursions to public on
 the [REDACTED] white [REDACTED]
 stuff [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]
 who employ this trouble maker
 She is here for no good
 are intermeddling for something
 or some other [REDACTED]

RECORDED
 INDEXED
 JUN 11 1954

AIR-TEL
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK, 7/9/54

~~SECRET~~

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Gandy	

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU

JOSEPHINE BAKER - IS-FRENCH. REBULET 6/7/54 AND NY 6/9/54. RECORDS USDC, SDNY, CIVIL DOCKET NUMBER 72-74, REFLECTS THAT JOSEPHINE BAKER FILED A LIBEL ACTION 12/21/51 VERSUS WALTER WINCHELL, HEARST CORP., AND KING FEATURES, INC. INDIVIDUALLY AND JOINTLY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$400,000. BAKER ALLEGED THAT WINCHELL IN HIS COLUMNS INDICATED THAT BAKER WAS "A FASCIST, A COMMUNIST, OR ONE WHO CONSORTS WITH COMMUNISTS, AN ANTI-SEMITES, AN ANTI-NEGRO, AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE OF HER OWN RACE, INTELLECTUALLY DISHONEST, A FRAUD, AND A PERSON OF LOW OR DOUBTFUL CHARACTER." DOCKET REFLECTS THAT ON 6/28/54 CASE WAS "ON CALL OF SPECIAL PRETRIAL BEFORE JUDGE KNOX. HEARING ADJOURNED TO 10/27/54."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

(3) - BUREAU (62-95834) (REGULAR)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/3/82 BY SP-10SK/PSK

Mr. Belmont

(1)
105-8241

CLASS. BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

DATE 9/3/82

RECORDED-95

62-95834-47

20 JUL 10 1954

EX-12

55 JUL 16 1954

Approved: *J. Kym*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per

de Braviza

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/3/82 BY SP-10SK/PSK

~~SECRET~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK, 6/9/54

AIR-TEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU

JOSEPHINE BAKER. OFFICE OF INS, INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NY
ADVISED ON 6/9/54 THAT JOSEPHINE BAKER, INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN
NEGRO ENTERTAINER, ENTERED THE US ON 6/5/54 AT INSTANT AIRPORT.
BAKER HAD VISITOR'S PERMIT TO STAY IN US FOR ONE MONTH. INS
ADVISED THAT BAKER STATED THE PURPOSE OF HER VISIT WAS TO SUE
WALTER WINCHELL FOR COMMENTS WRITTEN BY HIM IN HIS DAILY COLUMN
ABOUT HER. ABOVE SUBMITTED TO BUREAU FOR INFORMATION.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

3- BUREAU (REGULAR MAIL)

Mr. Belmont

CC: MR. BELMONT
SAC SUPERVISOR
DCM INTEL DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/3/82 BY SP-168/PSK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/3/82 BY SP-168/PSK

COPIES DESTROYED

11 DEC 1 1964

RECORDED-38

13 JUN 14 1954

Approved:

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per

AIR-TEL

DEFERRED

MAIL

JUNE 11, 1954

62-95834-48

RECORDED-38

~~62-95834-2789~~ SAC, NEW YORK (62-0)

JOSEPHINE BAKER, IS - FR. REUR AIR-TEL 6-9-54, AND BULET 6-3-54. CONDUCT NO ACTIVE INVESTIGATION OF SUBJECT, BUT IMMEDIATELY FURNISH BUREAU ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING HER ACTIVITIES COMING TO YOUR ATTENTION THROUGH INFORMANTS, ESTABLISHED SOURCES AND PUBLIC SOURCES.

HOOVER

62-95834

NOTE: Relet requested NY determine status of lawsuit and keep Bureau advised of developments.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/3/82 BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

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COMM - FBI
JUN 11 1954
MAILED 28

RECEIVED - DEPT. OF JUSTICE
JUN 11 1954
JUN 11 1954
JUN 11 1954

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Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Nichols _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Tracy _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Miss Gandy _____

68 JUL 23 1954

JUN 25 1954

145

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

August 1, 1954

CLASS BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

JOSEPHINE BAKER

DATE OF REVIEW

DATE

9/3/82

Attached hereto is a Photostat of a memorandum dated November 14, 1952, concerning Josephine Baker, born June 3, 1906, at St. Louis, Missouri. There is also attached a memorandum dated January 7, 1953, concerning Josephine Baker.

62-95834-15,20 Serial 42

In addition to the attached information, newspaper articles during the month of February, 1953, indicated that Josephine Baker was in Havana, Cuba.

The representative of another Government agency advised on March 3, 1953, that his contacts with principal Negro leaders in Havana, resulted in his being informed that Josephine Baker made no particular impression upon the Cuban Negro population even though the Communist Daily newspaper "Hoy" did play up the racist views of Baker.

Tolson
Boardman
Nichols
Belmont
Glavin
Harbo
Rosen
Tamm
Tracy
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Miss Gandy

Attachment

Orig. to:

RECORDED 2105

STATE EX-128

AUG 5 1954

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CONFIDENTIAL

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71 AUG 13 1954

Released
per
State Dept

b1

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

While in Cuba, Baker was received by President Fulgencio Batista; however, the press did not publicize this incident as a great honor.

b1

The records of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, Civil Docket Number 72-74, reflects that Josephine Baker filed a libel action on December 21, 1951, against Walter Winchell, Hearst Corporation, and King Features, Inc., individually and jointly in the amount of \$400,000. Baker alleged that Winchell in his columns indicated that Baker was "a Fascist, a Communist or one who consorts with Communists, an anti-Semite, an Anti-Negro, an enemy of the people of her own race, intellectually dishonest, a fraud, and a person of low or doubtful character." The docket also reflects that on June 28, 1954, the case was "on call of special pretrial before Judge Knox. Hearing adjourned to October 27, 1954."

You may desire to check the records of the State Department, [redacted] and the Immigration and Naturalization Service for information concerning Josephine Baker.

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

CONFIDENTIAL

~~SECRET~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (62-95834)

FROM : SAC, New York (105-8241)

SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER
IS - FR**SECRET**

DATE: 8/30/54

CLASS. BY

DATE OF REVIEW

Rebunair tel, 6/11/54 and NY air tel to Bureau,

7/9/54

Record of the Clerk of Court, SDNY, under Civil Docket No. 72-74, reflects that on 12/21/51, JOSEPHINE BAKER, represented by Attorneys HAYS, ST. JOHN, ABRAMSON and SCHULMAN, filed a libel action against WALTER WINCHELL, Hearst Corporation and King Features, Inc. individually and jointly charging that defendant WINCHELL indicated in his syndicated column that the plaintiff, JOSEPHINE BAKER, was a Fascist, Communist or one who consorts with Communists, an Anti-Semite, an Anti-Negro, an enemy of the people of her own race, intellectually dishonest, a fraud and a person of low or doubtful character.

A claim for \$400,000 damages was filed as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Damage for unemployment | \$100,000 |
| 2. Publication caused damage | 200,000 |
| 3. Punitive damage | 100,000 |

The complaint filed by ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYS, 120 Broadway, Attorney-at-Law, alleged that on or about 10/16/51 JOSEPHINE BAKER, in company with friends, visited the Stork Club, was treated discourteously. It continued that friends of BAKER formed a picket line for a few evenings thereafter. It alleged that WALTER WINCHELL was present on 10/16/51 at the Stork Club and resented publicity and thereafter embarked upon a public campaign to vilify, libel and damage BAKER in her reputation and professional standing in the community. Further, the complaint alleged that on or about 10/22/51 and day to day up to 12/21/51, WALTER WINCHELL maliciously, wantonly and recklessly printed and published information of and concerning BAKER in the "NY Daily Mirror" and in various papers throughout the US.

Further that on 10/28/51 an article was written by WINCHELL intended to mean that BAKER was an Italian Fascist or a sympathizer of Italian Fascists, that she invited and

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/19/82 BY SP-1654/RR

COPIES DESTROYED

11 DEC 1 1964

55 SEP 13 1954

RECORDED 94

INDEXED 94

SECRET-12562-95834-50
SEP 3 1954

148

~~SECRET~~

Letter to Director
NY 105-8241

planted incidents for purposes of publicity and self-display; that on 10/29/51 an article by WINCHELL intended to mean that BAKER has "horn swoggled", deceived and cheated colored people into accepting her as a heroine and champion; that she has in some improper way been connected with Communism, pro-Communists and fellow travellers; and that she approved of their views and philosophy; that she did not protest against discrimination in Cuba; that the Stork Club incident was a "job"; that she engaged in lascivious dancing; that the places where she performed did not want colored patronage; that she did not mix with colored people and did not want to be associated with them and that she was anti-Negro and wanted to be only with the white people.

The complaint further alleged that an article written by WINCHELL on 11/4/51 intended to mean that JOSEPHINE BAKER planned to act in a disorderly fashion in a Washington, D.C. Department Store in order to incite publicity against discrimination, but the newspapers having failed to help her in a false endeavor she did not go ahead.

It alleged that an article written by WINCHELL on 11/5/51 intended to mean that there was something illegal or suspicious in connection with the status of BAKER in the US and that she was under surveillance by the Government and might be prevented from ever entering the US again; that she was intellectually dishonest and a complete opportunist.

According to the complaint, an article written by WINCHELL on 12/9/51 intended to mean that JOSEPHINE BAKER hates Jewish people.

The record reflected that the Attorney for defendants WALTER WINCHELL, Hearst Corporation and King Features, Inc. was MC CAULEY and HENRY, 959 8th Ave., NY, NY.

The following notations appeared on the docket:

12/21/51 filed complaint and summons issued.

12/29/51 issued additional summons as of 12/21/51.

-2- ~~SECRET~~

149

~~SECRET~~

Letter to Director
NY 105-8241

1/2/52 filed summons and returned.
1/14/52 filed additional summons and returned.
1/15/52 filed stipulation and ordered extending time to answer to 2/11/52.
2/6/52 filed answer of defendant.
2/6/52 notice of taking disposition of plaintiff.
2/20/52 filed stipulation and order adjourning disposition of plaintiff to 4/25/52.
4/30/52 filed and ordered adjourning disposition of plaintiff to 5/28/52.
6/5/52 filed stipulation and order adjourning disposition of plaintiff to 9/24/52.
1/26/53 filed stipulation and order adjourning disposition of plaintiff of 2/26/53.
12/15/53 special pre-trial before Judge KNOX. Hearing held and adjourned to 4/1/54.
1/3/9/54 filed notice of issue for trial.
3/12/54 filed jury demand by defendants.
4/1/54 on call of special pre-trial before Judge KNOX. Hearing adjourned to 6/28/54.
6/28/54 on call of special pre-trial before Judge KNOX. Hearing adjourned to 10/27/54.

Inasmuch as no further action in connection with instant law suit is scheduled until 10/27/54, this investigation is being placed in a pending inactive status.

The Bureau will be kept advised of all developments.

~~SECRET~~

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1), (b)(7)(C) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

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☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-95834-NR 8-26-54

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

15

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1), (b)(7)(C) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-95834-NR 9-9-54

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 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1), (b)(7)(C) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-95834-NR 9-14-54

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 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (62-95834)
FROM : SAC, New York (105-8241)
SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER
IS-PR

DATE: DEC 2 1954

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

38909

ReNYlet, 8/30/54.

Referenced NY letter advised that the records of the Clerk of the Court, SDNY, under Civil Docket # 72-74 reflected that the pre-trial hearing before Judge KNOX scheduled for 6/28/54 was adjourned to 10/27/54.

The Docket, under dated of 10/27/54, contained the following notations:

"On call of special pre-trial before Knox, Ch.J.
Hearing adj. to 3/31/55."

It is also noted that the records of the INS, NYC under file # T 2321267 reflects that JOSEPHINE BAKER departed from the United States from Idlewild Airport NYC on 6/16/54 via Pan-American Airlines flight 140.

Inasmuch as no further action in connection with instant law suit is scheduled until 3/31/55, this investigation is being placed in a pending inactive status.

The Bureau will be kept advised of all developments.

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
DEC 10 1954

RECORDED - 54

62-95834-51

EX-103

DEC 6 1954

DEC 8 3 11 PM '54

66 DEC 14 1954

SECRET

b7c

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XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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☐ Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☒ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) Immigration and Naturalization Service, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-95834-52

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CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Stacey

~~SECRET~~

The Commissioner (original and 1)
Immigration and Naturalization Service

December 22, 1954

Director, FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

- ☐ Gandy
- ☐ Holloman
- ☐ Tele. Room
- ☐ Winkwood
- ☐ Sizoo
- ☐ Tamm
- ☐ Rosen
- ☐ Parsons
- ☐ Mohr
- ☐ Harbo
- ☐ Belmont
- ☐ Nichols
- ☐ Boardman
- ☐ Tamm

JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

CLASS BY SP-1 GSK/RSK

DATE OF REVIEW

9/3/82

RECORDED-53
62-95834-52

EX-125

You will be notified promptly when the results of
this inquiry are determined.

62-95834

cc - 2 - New Orleans (Attachment)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- ☐ Tamm
- ☐ Boardman
- ☐ Nichols
- ☐ Belmont
- ☐ Harbo
- ☐ Mohr
- ☐ Parsons
- ☐ Rosen
- ☐ Tamm
- ☐ Sizoo
- ☐ Winkwood
- ☐ Tele. Room
- ☐ Holloman
- ☐ Gandy

VTKS:ajr:trf
(6) FBI

55 JAN 3 1955

CONFIDENTIAL

COMM - FBI
DEC 22 1954
MAILED 24

71 JAN 7 1955

~~SECRET~~

33:324

W23 VTH

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
RECORDS SECTION

12-14 1954

☐ Name Check Unit-Room 6523
☐ Attention
☐ Service Unit Room 6524
☐ Forward to File Review
☒ Return to Stacey Ext. 1537
Supervisor Room 1537

☒ All References since April '54
☐ Subversive References
☐ Main References Only
☐ Main References Only
☐ Restrict to Locality of
☐ Breakdown ☐ Buildup ☐ Variations
☒ Exact Name Only
☒ Exact Spelling
☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

SUBJECT
Address

Localities
Birthdate & Place

RF 116 Date 12-14 Searcher Initial del
FILE NUMBER SERIAL 240

MF 62-95834 b7C

MF 62-95834 b7C

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Josephine Baker **SECRET**
Supervisor Stacey Room 1537
Date 12/14 Initial del/ao

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

MF	62-95834-	42/summary
4-1634	100-365980-	25
62-44	123-1191-	9
1-26-54	100-145150-	119
7-12-54	140-5078-	5
101-4053-		1058
100-392496-		27
		(S)
		b1

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CLASS. BY SP-1 GSK/PSK
DATE OF REVIEW 1/24/82

SECRET

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. E. E. ROACH

DATE: December 10, 1954

FROM : H. W. PHILCOX

61356

SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - FR
(Bureau File 62-95834)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

On December 8, 1954, Mr. Mario Noto, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), advised that Commissioner Swing of INS has taken a personal interest in the case of Josephine Baker and has directed that INS obtain sufficient information with which to order her exclusion from the U. S. Mr. Noto explained that recently the Department ruled that there was insufficient derogatory subversive information to use as a basis for her exclusion, and, therefore, INS is conducting additional inquiry in order to attempt to obtain additional information.

Mr. Noto has requested that Bureau files be reviewed to insure that all pertinent derogatory information in possession of the Bureau has been furnished to INS. Mr. Noto also directed attention to Bureau memorandum dated November 14, 1952, page 4, paragraph 5 (Serial 15).

Mr. Noto stated that he would forward this request to the Bureau in a formal communication.*

ACTION:

It is requested that this memorandum be furnished to the Espionage Section for handling.

ADDENDUM:

HP:hke

(3 copies)

VTKS:mg

1-Mr. Philcox
1-Section Tickler

RECORDED - 17

62-95834-53
13 DEC 29 1954

* Letter Forwarded

2 NO 12/15/54

SECRET

SECRET

INS info. unchanged per Noto
letter of 9/15/54. MHA/PC 12/15/54.

153

cc - J. V. Stacy

SAC, New Orleans (original and 1)

Director, FBI (62-95834)

JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

RECORDED - 17

62-95834-53

December 15, 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

61355

ENC. # SP-1 GOR/BSK

陳 永 昌

9/9/82

b1

12-28-54
VTS

WKS:mg:afy

DEC 12 2 00 PM '34

DEC 12 1 37 PM '29

Tolson _____
 Boardman _____
 Nichols _____
 Belmont ✓ _____
 Harbo _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
 Winterrowd _____
 Tele. Room ✓ _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

MAILED 148

DEC 15 1954

COMM - FBI

SECRET - RUC

~~SECRET~~

JAN 18 1955

Tickler - Mr. Stacey

SECRET

AIR-TEL

RECEIVED

DECEMBER 28, 1954

NEW ORLEANS (Original and one)

JOSEPHINE BAKER, INTERNAL SECURITY - PR. REFUGEE 12-13-54,

12-22-54. REPTER REQUESTED INQUIRY AND REPAIR-THE REFUGEE.

62-95834

DOVER

61354

NOTE:

as info 'unclassified' per their 4/1/61 letter. no further info.

Liaison advised that the Commissioner of IES has taken a personal interest in captioned case. IES requested that leads be expedited.

CLASS BY SP-1 GSK/RSK

DATE OF REVIEW

FOR

9/1/00

RECORDED - 17

62-95834-54

DEC 30 1954

EX-103

90

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

VTKS: Jan jaa
(4)

DEC 56 5 33 PM '54

RECEIVED OFFICE

FBI

RECEIVED ROOM

COMM - FBI

DEC 28 1954

MAILED 31

SECRET

DEC 30 1954

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SECRET

Mr. Tolson	FD-2
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

REGISTERED

Transmit the following ~~TELETYPE~~ message to:
FBI NEW ORLEANS 12-30-54

DIRECTOR, FBI

AM

AIRTEL

JOSEPHINE BAKER, INTERNAL SECURITY - FR. REBUAIRTEL TO

NEW ORLEANS DATED 12-28-54. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RUC

(5)

b7C

WP:eah
105-493

DATE OF REVIEW

QADP

4/7/82

11/4/55 VTKS

Mr. Belmont

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

RECORDED-80

EX-123

SECRET

62-95834-55

JAN 2 1955

cc Brannigan

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

161

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Stacey

The Commissioner
Immigration and Naturalization Service

(original and 1)

January 6, 1955

Director, FBI

RECORDED-80

62-95834-55

JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - PR

Reference is made to your memorandum dated December 10, 1954, containing the numbers and initials T-2321267, INV:CJB:emp, and this Bureau's memorandum dated December 22, 1954, concerning captioned individual.

[REDACTED]

62-95834

VTKS:baw:nff
(4)

[REDACTED]

CLASS. BY SP-1 GSK/PSK

DATE OF REVIEW MAR 9/7/62

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

COMM E FBI

JAN 6 1955

MAILED 80

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Nease _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~

58 JAN 10 1955

Handwritten signatures and initials:
J. Edgar Hoover
WAB
162

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL

Transmit the following teletype message to: BUREAU

JOSEPHINE BAKER, IS-FR. THE "NY HERALD TRIBUNE"
OF 1/21/55 CONTAINED AN ARTICLE AND PHOTO OF THE
SUBJECT STATING SHE ARRIVED AT IDLEWILD AIRPORT FROM
PARIS, FRANCE ON INSTANT DATE, EN ROUTE TO MEXICO CITY.
SHE WAS DETAINED FOR FOUR HOURS BY IMMIGRATION AGENTS.
NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN. BAKER LEFT FOR MEXICO
CITY AT 12:15 PM THE SAME DATE. SUBMITTED FOR INFO
OF BUREAU.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

③ - BUREAU (62-95834)(RM)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/7/02 BY SP1024/PL

105-8241 (1-8)

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED - 106

62-95834-56

10 JAN 20 1955

APPROVED FEB 3 1955

Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

163

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (62-95834)
 FROM : SAC, New York (105-8241)
 SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER
 IS - PR

DATE: 5/5/55

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 9/1/82 BY SP-1 CLK/PK

Re NY letter 12/2/54.

ReNYlet advised that the records of the Clerk of Court, U. S. District Court, SDNY, under civil docket number 72-74 contained a notation indicating that a hearing on the subject's libel suit against WALTER WINCHELL was adjourned to 3/31/55.

The docket checked again on 5/2/55, contained the following notations under the dates indicated:

DateEntry

3/31/55

Special pre-trial before KNOX. Hearing held. Case dismissed with leave to reopen by 6/30/55. Settle order on notice, etc. Counsel to return 4/28/55 unless final order is entered beforehand.

4/12/55

Filed unsigned order.

4/12/55

Filed order dismissing complaint with leave to modify or vacate as indicated above. CH. J. KNOX

In view of the fact that the case was dismissed, but with leave to modify or vacate, the complaint by 6/30/55, the case in the NYO will be maintained in a pending inactive status awaiting the final disposition of the court action.

RM

cah

RECORDED - 76

EX-126

MAY 8 1955

55 MAY 12 1955

164

F.B.I. RADIOGRAM

DECODED COPY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/29/82 BY SP-10/SK/PP

FROM SAN FRANCISCO

5-3-55

NR 032252

7:33 PM

DIRECTOR

DEFERRED

JOSEPHINE BAKER, NEGRO ENTERTAINER FROM FRANCE PRESENTLY
IN SF. INFORMATION CONCERNING

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

RECEIVED:

5-3-55

7:50 PM

MAP

Mr. Belmont

RECORDED 28

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

BY MAY 12 1955

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Tic - Stacey

RECORDED - 28

62-95434-58

62-95834

BY COURIER SERVICE

EOI - X3

Date: May 10, 1955

To: Mr. Dennis A. Flinn (orig and 1)
Director
Office of Security
Department of State
515 22nd Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/19/82 BY SP-1 GSK/RSK

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 GSK/RSK
ON 9/19/82

Your attention is invited to previous correspondence furnished
your Department and other receiving agencies concerning the subject.

[REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

b7D

The above is for your information and the information of the
other receiving agencies and is not intended for further dissemination.
No investigation concerning Baker is contemplated by this Bureau.

[REDACTED]

b2 BY COURIER SERVICE

MAY 10 8 02 AM '55

cc - 1 - San Francisco (Information)
cc - 1 - New York (105-8241) (Information)
cc - 1 - Assistant Attorney General (By O-6, same date)
William F. Tompkins

VTKS:jmm
(9) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO

BY COURIER SERVICE
MAY 11 1955
COMM - FBI

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Wick _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

MAY 17 1955

WAB

160

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

cc - 1 - The Commissioner (our reference I-239127, REV. DEPARTMENT OF
Immigration and Naturalization Service - December 25, 1954)

NOTE: Josephine Baker is a negro entertainer who gave up her American citizenship and secured French citizenship in the 1930's. Information concerning Baker's connections with pro-Communist organizations has previously been furnished to the Department as well as to State and INS.

[REDACTED] b7D

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

167

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (62-95834)

DATE: 8/31/55

FROM : SAC, New York (105-8241)

SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER
IS-FRANCE

38908

Re NY letter 5/5/55.

Civil docket #72-74 at USDC, SDNY, was checked on 8/31/55 and the following entry was noted:

DateEntry

6/29/55

Filed Judgment dismissing action and that deft. recover their costs

In view of the fact that the act by the subject has been dismissed by the court and since this case had been maintained in a pending inactive status for the purpose of reporting the final disposition of the case, no further action is contemplated by this office and the case is being closed.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/2/82 BY SP1 GSK/JSK

RECORDED-11

62-95834-59

17 SEP 1 1955

EX - 108

.MXG

SEP 12 1955

168

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (62-95834)

DATE: October 18, 1955

FROM : *esa*
Legal Attaché - Havana, Cuba (62-19)

SECRET - AIR COURIER

SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - PR

Released per State Dept.

On 10/17/55, Mr. Richard G. Cushing, the Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Embassy in Havana, advised that he has been informed that the CMQ Radio and Television Network now has a new contract with JOSEPHINE BAKER for her services as an entertainer in Havana starting November 1, 1955. Mr. Cushing states that BAKER is reported to be in Montreal, Canada, at the present time traveling under a French passport. He had no other pertinent information concerning her proposed trip to Cuba.

You will be advised of any available information re her future itinerary. UACB this office will conduct no active investigation of subject [REDACTED]

b1

Extra copies of this letter are submitted in the event the Bureau desires to forward them to the Ottawa or Paris representatives.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

AGENCY *NY, 100-2-100*
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. *10-27-55*
RCV. FORW. *NY*
BY *VTKS/SLA*

RECORDED - 11

62-95834-60

OCT 20 1955

EX-121

CLASS. BY *SP-1 GUY/BSL*DATE OF REVIEW *BADR*

SECRET

OCT 27 1955

169

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (62-95834)

DATE: December 20, 1955
Havana, Cuba

FROM : Legal Attache, Havana, Cuba (62-19)

61353

SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER
INTERNAL SECURITY - FRANCE

SECRET - AIR COURIER

Memylet October 18, 1955, advising that information had been received to the effect that JOSEPHINE BAKER had contracted with CMQ Radio and Television Network in Havana for performances starting November 1, 1955.

Mr. RICHARD G. CUSHING, Public Affairs Officer of the U. S. Embassy in Havana, advised on December 19, 1955 that the original contract between subject and CMQ had been broken because subject had become involved in a law suit in Montreal, Canada and was unable to fulfil her engagement.

CUSHING states that executives of CMQ told him that they have no future plans for a contract with the subject and there is no information indicating that she intends to come to Cuba at the present time.

Extra copies of this letter are submitted in the event the Bureau desires to forward them to the Ottawa or Paris offices. RUC.

67C
AGENCY H/4, Legat Paris
REQ. REC'D
DATE FORW. 12-29-55
HOW FORW. R/S
BY V/KC/dla

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-1 GSK/RK
ON 9/10/80

RECORDED 97
EX-126

62-95834-
11 DEC 22 1955

6 DEC 29 1955

170

REVIEWED BY *ASU*DATE *8/3/85*

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514/6-757

INDEXED - 39

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT

FOREIGN OFFICE DESPATCH

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐DECLASSIFIED *DECLASSIFIED* *French West Africa*RELEASE DENIED *in part*PA OF FOI EXEMPTIONS *22(A)(7)(C)*

June 7, 1957

REF : CanGen's Desp. No. 271, May 15, 1957

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	RECD	IN V O OTHER
<i>17</i>	<i>7/13</i>	<i>Brk 2 Exp 5 of 8 P 1 4/10 4/10-1 ICA 10 34-2</i> <i>Can 12 US 4 10 UCB 1 1124 Army 4 Navy 3 Air 3</i>

SUBJECT: Anti-American Propaganda in French West Africa

The anti-American press campaign being waged in French West Africa through the local press, with the tacit approval if not material support as well of the French Government, has received added impetus from an unexpected quarter, in the person of Josephine BAKER and her travelling companion, Bernard LECACHE.

Miss Baker and Mr. Lecache arrived in Dakar the last week in May 1957 on a brief but busy tour of the area, which included a visit to Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Ostensibly in Dakar as the guest of honor at a ball given by the local chapter of the Order of the Legion of Honor in behalf of its charitable organizations, both Miss Baker and Mr. Lecache found the time to engage in a great deal of verbal anti-American propaganda. They both spoke at a series of conferences and meetings held in Dakar and Abidjan. One of the meetings took place in Dakar at the Rialto open-air movie theater in the presence of 4,000 persons. It was one of the occasions on which Josephine Baker and Bernard Lecache were most vehemently outspoken in their attacks on the United States and its domestic and foreign activities. Especially taken to task was American aid for underdeveloped areas which, in the words of Miss Baker, was merely a cloak to disguise the real twin motives of the United States: cultural domination of the populations and the economic exploitation of their lands. She frequently cited Liberia as the best that could be expected as a result of American interest and assistance. The recent African trip and subsequent report of Vice President NIXON was cited by Miss Baker as a fore-runner of the dire things that would befall the underdeveloped areas of Africa if left to the double-edged solicitude of the United States, with its lynchings and double standards where black peoples are involved. The continuation of the evils of discrimination in the United States, despite the laws passed abolishing segregation, was a recurrent theme in all of Josephine Baker's speeches.

It must be said that both Miss Baker and Mr. Lecache were well-received by their audiences, and their utterances, for the most part, brought sympathetic and at times enthusiastic applause from African and European listeners alike. Josephine Baker made a point at one of her conferences of putting Uncle Sam, Colonel MASSER, and King IEN SAUD all in the same basket for, as she put it, the first was a racist, the second anti-Semitic and the third a slaver. Her criticism of Masser did not go over too well, as a large proportion of her audience consisted of Moslem Africans. *RECORDED* *INDEXED - 39* *62-95834-6*

Touring Dakar and Abidjan under the auspices of the International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism, the former Paris music-hall star reminded her audiences again and again of her American East St. Louis origin and subsequent naturalization.

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INFORMATION COPY

Retain in divisional files or destroy in accordance with security regulations

Page 2 of
Dep. No. 310
From Dakar

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(Classification)

Page _____ of
Encl. No. _____
Dep. No. _____
From _____

as a French citizen. Bernard Leache, an excellent speaker incidentally, made no attempt to disguise the fact that he is left-wing and made it abundantly clear where his political sympathies lie. Josephine Baker at 51 is still an arresting personality on the stage or rostrum and can convey her thoughts orally with warmth and conviction, completely captivating her African listeners in particular.

W. Mallory-Brown

W. Mallory-Brown
American Consul General

Dept: Please repeat to Paris.

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FBI
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SUBVERSIVE
JUN 21 5 07 PM '51

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American Embassy
Paris 8, France

Date: September 5, 1957
To: Director, FBI (100-57453)
From: Legat, Paris (65-160)
Subject: [REDACTED]

61351

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/17/82 BY SP1 CJK/ER

Re Paris letter 8/2/57.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Enclosure - 1

WTS:CM
(8)

cc. 105-215

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162-95834
NOT RECORDED
46 SEP 16 1957

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-57453-197

7 2 SEP 18 1957

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Director

61352

9/5/51

Paris files reflect the case of "JOSEPHINE BAKER;
Internal Security - France" (Bufile 62-95834).

Four extra copies of this letter are provided for
possible transmittal to New York, Mexico City and for inclusion
in the Bufile on JOSEPHINE BAKER.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: *June 19, 1959*

FROM J. R. R. ROOD

**SUBJECT: THE BUREAU FOR REPRESSION
COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA**

of ^(U) Josephine Baker

Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 DeLoach _____
 McGuire _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Trotter _____
 W.C. Sullivan _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

CLASS. BY SP1 DSE/100
DATE OF REVIEW PAGE 9/8/02

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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

4 ENCLOSURE

Molécules

1-Mr. Belmont
1-Records and Communication Division

FRI JUN 28 1958

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NAT. INT. SEC.

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XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET6

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- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) (b) (1) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

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62-95834- NR 6-19-59

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 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: February 10, 1960

FROM : MR. G. H. SCATTERDAY

SUBJECT: JOSEPHINE BAKER

~~SECRET~~

Tolson _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Belmont _____
 Callahan _____
 DeLoach _____
 Malone _____
 McGuire _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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SYNOPSIS:

MRS JEAN LION

MRS JO BOULLION

Pursuant to Mr. Tolson's request 2-9-60 Bureau files reviewed on Josephine Baker, former Negro singer and entertainer. Bureau has not investigated Baker; however, considerable information received re her activities during past several years. She was born in St. Louis in 1905 or 1906; began her career in 1925 in Paris and has spent most of time since then in France. Married several times, last in 1947 to French (white) band leader Jo Boullion. Reportedly worked for Free French Air Force in intelligence during World War II.

In October, 1951, was involved in incident at Stork Club, alleged that she was being discriminated against in food service. Walter Winchell's column in 1951 contained information re this alleged discrimination indicating he had been urged to denounce Stork Club and Sherman Billingsley. Subsequently she brought suit against Winchell and Hearst Corporation \$400,000 for libel in connection with this incident; case was dismissed at pretrial hearing.

62-95834

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51 GSK/JS

MCT-13

REC-29

62-95834-63

1 - Mr. Parsons

DATE OF REVIEW

PAGE

1

Name Check Section

11 FEB 17 1960

1 - Mr. Belmont

65 APR 19 1961

NAME

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: JOSEPHINE BAKER.

~~SECRET~~

In recent years, Baker has been lecturing in numerous countries throughout world; most of her speeches denounce U.S. and point up the vicious atrocities against Negroes in the U.S. State Department has furnished considerable information re her activities and consider her not definitely procommunist but pro-Negro and primarily interested in fight for racial equality.

In 1954 in Tokyo, Japan, she adopted two Japanese boys; expressed hope they would follow footsteps of Paul Robeson, whom she described as great man who has fought the battles for racial justice and world peace. Gave last stage performance in 1956 in Paris. Recent information indicates she has continued her anti-U.S. statements throughout the world.

ACTION:

This is for information.

[Handwritten initials: J, Q, 2, V, and a signature]

~~SECRET~~

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: JOSEPHINE BAKER

~~SECRET~~

DETAILS:

In accordance with the request of Mr. Tolson on February 9, 1960, Bureau files have been reviewed concerning Josephine Baker, former Negro singer and entertainer.

JOSEPHINE BAKER Summary
The Bureau has not investigated Baker; however, our files contain considerable information regarding her activities during the past several years. She was born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1905 or 1906. Her mother was a washerwoman. Our files contain little concerning her early life. According to an article in "Life" magazine in 1951, she began a Paris night club career in 1925 and has spent most of her life since that time in France; however, in recent years she has traveled over much of the world. She was reported to have at one time been married to a Negro tap dancer and purportedly married one Pepito Albertino in the 1920's. In 1937 she gave up her United States citizenship and married a French broker by the name of Jean Lion. This marriage was dissolved in 1940. Baker married a French band leader, Jo Bouillon, in 1947. During World War II and the occupation of France by the Germans, she spent her time in North Africa. The magazine article stated that while in North Africa, Baker became a lieutenant in the Free French Air Force, did intelligence work, drove an ambulance, and entertained troops.

In the early part of 1951 the Communist Party took a great interest and engaged in extensive activities in the defense of Willie McGee, a Negro who had been convicted in the State of Mississippi on a charge of rape of a white woman. He was executed for that offense in May, 1951. "Counterattack" in March, 1951, carried an item entitled "Josephine Baker Won't Support Communist Fronts." This article stated that Baker canceled a speaking engagement at a "Save Willie McGee Rally" scheduled for March 19, 1951, when she learned that the rally was sponsored by the American Labor Party and that Paul Robeson, well-known Negro singer and Communist Party apologist, would speak at the rally.

[REDACTED]

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b7D

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: JOSEPHINE BAKER

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[REDACTED] one
article appeared in the April 14, 1951, issue by "L'Unita Del
Popolo" (cited by the California Committee on Un-American
Activities).

[REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] b7D

[REDACTED] b1

On October 16, 1951, according to newspaper articles appearing in numerous newspapers throughout the country, Josephine Baker; Mrs. Bessie Buchanan, Harlem service leader; and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Rico of the French theater alleged that they had been made to wait an unreasonable length of time before being served food at the Stork Club in New York City. The principals involved complained that they had been subjected to racial discrimination. Walter Winchell, in his broadcast on October 21, 1951, referred to the incident at the Stork Club stating that he had been at the Club at the same time as Baker but had left before she did and at no time while he was there had he noted anything proximating an incident. Winchell stated that he himself deplored the situation but he was equally

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In Winchell's column on October 29, 1951, Winchell quoted a letter which he had received from George S. Schuyler, New York editor of the "Pittsburgh Courier," a leading Negro newspaper. This letter in effect accused Baker of being "used" by the communists and Communist Party front organizations and denounced the criticism of Winchell which resulted from the alleged discrimination against Baker at the Stork Club.

- 4 -

SECRET

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: JOSEPHINE BAKER

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the Arts, Sciences and Professions (cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities). One of the measures adopted at this conference was a telegram to Josephine Baker commending her for her forthright action in the Stork Club incident.

b7C
b7D

[REDACTED]

On April 16, 1952, an Associated Press release, dated Mexico City, contained information that Baker in Mexico City had announced the formation of an organization known as the "World League Against Racial Discrimination." This release pointed out that the League would fight discrimination not only against the Negro race but all others who were the targets of restrictive practices. Baker announced in this release that headquarters of the League would be in Mexico and branches would be established in many other countries.

Released
per State

Subsequent to this time, our files contain voluminous information pointing up vicious anti-American remarks made in various countries in the world by Baker. They appear to stem from her establishment of the World League Against Racial Discrimination and her efforts to organize this League. The State Department, [REDACTED] have furnished copies of speeches wherein she denounces the United States and points out vicious atrocities against Negroes in this country. One such statement made by Baker was to the effect that she had personally seen a number of lynchings of entire Negro families.

Declassified per 9/2/03 State Dept. letter GSK/px 4/1/03.

b1

[REDACTED]

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